

PALESTINE

S/P

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January 19, 1948

Dear Dr. Hoover:

I am glad to tell you, in reply to your letter of January 10, that the newspaper story of our sending the marines to Palestine was entirely unfounded. The rumor originated in London, and was probably due to an exaggerated notion of how we proposed to safeguard the premises of the Consulate General during the present period of crisis. Our only plans in this respect consist in the possibility of assigning a few civilian guards for protective purposes.

I do not have to tell you, nevertheless, how much I appreciate your views on a situation of this sort. You would have had just cause for alarm, I think, if the headlines had accurately reflected the policy of the Government under such circumstances as you portray. In this instance, as so often happens, the denial from the Department probably came too late to catch up with the results achieved by the imaginative newspapermen.

Sincerely yours,

George F. Kennan
Director, Policy Planning Staff

Professor Calvin B. Hoover,
Box 4855, Duke Station,
Durham, North Carolina.

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